

## A Message from Governor Haley Barbour

Dear fellow Mississippians,

While Mississippi is faring better than many other states in these troubled economic times, we are still facing severe budget constraints. In response to the current recession, Congress has enacted an unprecedented economic stimulus package to help shore up state budgets and create jobs among other goals. Though I believe just as many jobs could have been created with a smaller stimulus plan, I want Mississippians to know my office and state agencies are working to ensure every penny we receive is spent responsibly and effectively.

It has been estimated the State of Mississippi will receive up to \$2.8 billion from the federal government for a variety of needs, including health care, transporation, and public education. Through a competitive grant process, we could stand to receive even more money in other areas.

I know many Mississippians have questions on how the stimulus package will affect them. My administration is gathering information on the individual programs and applications as details are developed. Mississippi, like the other states, is awaiting further guidance from federal agencies on the rules for allocating this money.

My administration is committed to clearly communicating the ways this money will be spent.

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**Deleted:** My administration and other state agencies continue to gather information on the full impact of the stimulus plan.

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**Deleted:** within state government. Visit my website, [www.governorbarbour.com](http://www.governorbarbour.com), for any updates on how your tax dollars are being spent.